

Claims

1. A method of loading a housing for a medicament dispenser with a medicament carrier, said carrier having the form of an elongate strip and having
5 multiple distinct medicament doses carried thereby, the method comprising
- (a) loading said housing with at least one leader in the form of an elongate strip such that a leading end of said at least one leader is drivably anchored within the housing and a trailing end of the at least one leader hangs freely;
- 10 (b) fixing a first end of the medicament carrier to said trailing end of the at least one leader;
- (c) drivably moving the leading end of the leader such as to move the medicament
15 carrier into the housing.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the medicament carrier has blister pack form.
- 20 3. A method according to either of claims 1 or 2, wherein the at least one leader is in the form of a plain elongate strip without any particular surface detailing along its length.
4. A method according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the width of the at least
25 one leader strip matches that of the medicament carrier strip.
5. A method according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the at least one leader has a length of from 5 to 50cm.

6. A method according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the at least one leader comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polymer, paper, metal, fabric, laminate and composite.

5 7. A method according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the at least one leader anchors to a rotatable drive hub in the housing.

8. A method according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the leading end of at least one leader has a bobbin provided thereto.

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9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the bobbin is arranged for drivable anchoring within the housing.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the bobbin takes the form of a drive
15 head, which on anchoring within the housing acts as part of a drive mechanism for the at least one leader.

11. A method according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein anchoring of the leader within the housing is by a method selected from the group consisting of heat welding,
20 ultrasonic welding, laser welding, adhesive fixing, stapling, riveting, taping, hook and hole fixing, pin and hole fixing, looping, clamping, knotting, slot and dimple fixing, slot and fold fixing, wrap and cinch fixing and any combination thereof.

12. A method according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein in step (a) the trailing
25 end of the at least one leader hangs freely within the housing.

13. A method according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein in step (a) the trailing end of the at least one leader protrudes from the housing.

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14. A method according to any of claims 1 to 13, wherein fixing step (b) is by a fixing method selected from the group consisting of heat welding, ultrasonic welding, laser welding, adhesive fixing, stapling, adhesive taping, knotting, stitching, cut and folding and any combination thereof.

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15. A method according to any of claims 1 to 14, wherein drivable movement step (c) is responsive to actuation of a geared drive mechanism provided to the housing.

16. A method according to any of claims 1 to 15, additionally comprising closing
10 off the housing subsequent to movement of the medicament carrier there into.

17. A method according to any of claims 1 to 16, wherein the housing defines a cavity having an access port with a closure provided thereto.

15 18. A method according to any of claims 1 to 17, wherein the medicament carrier is in the form of a peelable strip comprising a base sheet, in which blisters are formed to define pockets therein and a lid sheet which is hermetically sealed to the base sheet except in the region of the blisters in such a manner that the lid sheet and the base sheet can be peeled apart and except in the region of the forward end
20 portions such that separate base and lid sheet forward end portions are presented.

19. A method according to claim 18, wherein a first leader is employed for the base sheet of the peelable strip and a second leader is employed for the lid sheet of the peelable strip.

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20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the leading end of said first leader anchors to a base sheet drive and /or the leading end of said second leader anchors to a lid sheet drive.

30 21. A method according to either of claims 19 or 20, wherein in step (b) the trailing end of the first leader is fixed to the base sheet of the medicament carrier and

the trailing end of the second leader is fixed to the lid sheet of the medicament carrier.

22. A method according to any of claims 1 to 21, wherein the medicament carrier
5 is coiled up prior to fixing to the at least one leader.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein coiled up medicament carrier is associated with retaining means for retaining the coiled form thereof.

10 24. A method according to claim 23, wherein said retaining means has the form of a clip.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein said retaining means has a form arranged for engagement with the housing on movement of the coiled up
15 medicament carrier into the housing.

26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the retaining means has the form of a closure for an access port of the housing.

20 27. A method according to any of claims 1 to 21, wherein the medicament carrier is coiled up subsequent to fixing to the at least one leader.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the medicament carrier is coiled by *in situ* coiling within the housing.

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29. Medicament dispenser loaded with a medicament carrier and at least one leader therefor obtainable by the method of any of claims 1 to 28.

30. A method for making a pre-assembly for use with the method of any of claims
30 1 to 29, the pre-assembly method comprising loading a housing for a medicament dispenser with at least one leader in the form of an elongate strip such that a leading

end of said at least one leader is drivably anchored within the housing and a trailing end of the at least one leader hangs freely for fixing to a medicament carrier, said carrier having the form of an elongate strip and having multiple distinct medicament doses carried thereby.

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31. A pre-assembly method according to claim 30, additionally comprising closing off the housing to contain the at least one leader therein.

32. Pre-assembly obtainable by the method according to either of claims 30 or 31.

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33. A housing for a medicament dispenser arranged for loading with a medicament carrier by a method according to any of claims 1 to 28, said carrier having the form of an elongate strip and having multiple distinct medicament doses carried thereby, said housing comprising

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(a) a body defining a cavity having an access port for receipt of a medicament carrier provided thereto; and

(b) a closure provided to said access port.

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34. A housing according to claim 33, wherein said closure comprises a door in hinged relationship with said body.

35. A method of coiling a medicament carrier, said carrier having the form of an elongate strip and having multiple distinct medicament doses carried thereby, the method comprising

- (a) receiving the leading end of the elongate medicament carrier by a spindle;
- 30 (b) rotating said spindle whilst keeping the elongate medicament carrier generally static.

36. A method of coiling a medicament carrier, said carrier having the form of an elongate strip and having multiple distinct medicament doses carried thereby, the method comprising

5 (a) receiving the leading end of the elongate medicament carrier by a spindle;

(b) rotating said spindle whilst keeping moving the elongate medicament carrier in a lateral sense.

10 37. A method of coiling according to either of claims 35 or 36, wherein the spindle frictionally engages the elongate medicament carrier.

38. A method of coiling according to either of claims 35 or 36, wherein the end of the elongate medicament carrier is received within a slit provided to the spindle.

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39. Coiled medicament carrier obtainable by a method according to any of claims 34 to 38.

40. A method of loading a housing for a medicament dispenser with a coiled
20 medicament carrier, said carrier having the form of an elongate strip and having multiple distinct medicament doses carried thereby, the method comprising

(a) loading said housing with the medicament carrier such that a leading end of said medicament carrier is drivably anchored within the housing and a trailing end of the
25 medicament carrier hangs freely;

(b) drivably moving the leading end of the medicament carrier such as to move the medicament carrier fully into the housing; and

30 (c) coiling the medicament carrier *in situ* within the housing,

wherein the interior of the housing and / or components provided thereto are shaped to assist the *in situ* coiling of the medicament carrier.

41. A method according to claim 40, wherein the housing is provided with an
5 access port through which medicament carrier may be loaded.

42. Housing for a medicament dispenser loaded with a coiled medicament carrier obtainable by a method according to either of claims 40 or 41.